

Erin Ristig

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EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Science and Management June 2021
Bren School of Environmental Science & Management – University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)
Specialization: Coastal Marine Resources Management | Focus: Environmental Data Science

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Analysis and Spanish May 2015
Claremont McKenna College - Claremont, CA

Awards/Leadership: Phi Beta Kappa; Cum Laude; The Keck Center Senior Thesis Award for Fieldwork

Thesis: "Proyectos de desarrollo sostenible basados en la comunidad: una empresa de ecoturismo en El Topo, Ecuador" (Community-based Sustainable Development Projects - An Ecotourism Business in El Topo)

Study Abroad: SIT Comparative Ecology and Conservation - Ecuador Fall 2013

MARINE CONSERVATION CONSULTING

Independent Consultant – Fisheries Management and Marine Conservation June 2020 - Present

The Nature Conservancy – Fisheries Scorecard Development September 2022 - Present

- Systematically evaluate top California fish species, analyzing catch-at-length metrics against size at maturity
- Develop a standardized scorecard "rating" each species and describing the current state of size limits being used in California state fisheries management

Barefoot Ocean – Octopus Fishery Analysis; Survey Design September 2022 - Present

- Analyze Indonesian octopus fishery temporary closure data to provide management recommendations
- Refine survey design to collect community-level fishery data, catch data, and social-economic household data

NOAA – Marine Resource Protection Data Analysis June 2020 - Present

- Coordinate with wardens and partner organizations to streamline design and increase utilization of an electronic app system; improve user experience for collection of more accurate enforcement data in CA
- Produce figures and reports to communicate the utility of enforcement technologies to partner agencies

Environmental Defense Fund – Fisheries Toolkit Website Redesign May 2021 - September 2022

- Led workshops, focus groups, and assessments to solicit feedback, redesign the website framework, and refine the toolkit to better meet the needs of a broad and international set of users
- Created communication materials, to be used on the website, that demonstrate the tools' purposes and utility
- Managed the development of web pages and visual content, in coordination with subject matter experts and the communications team; led team effort to review, edit, and finalize all website content

The Rāhui Center – Fisheries Research Project Management June 2021 - June 2022

- Designed and implemented a field data collection program for small-scale fisheries management in French Polynesia; wrote project methodology guides and work plans
- Coordinated and facilitated between anthropological and scientific researchers to analyze field work situations and problem solve the combining of disparate data into holistic management recommendations
- Provided guidance, solutions, and technical expertise to international team of data collectors

Nature Analytics – Fisheries Modelling and Communication January - December 2021

- Developed an online, educational toolkit to explain fisheries science concepts to non-science audiences
- Created two global Shiny applications to be used for facilitation of fishery management decision-making – a yield-per-recruit teaching tool and a minimum size limit tradeoff tool; translated the applications into Spanish

Rare – Gender and Fisheries Paper Development March - December 2021

- Led group on design and outline of a 'gender in fisheries' research paper, utilizing household surveys data

The Nature Conservancy – Global Trap Fisheries Analysis April - July 2021

- Conducted a global assessment of trap and pot fisheries, based on a determined set of enabling conditions, to evaluate the potential market for a lost gear recovery toolkit
- Presented results of assessment, potential barriers, and suggestions for scaling to program leadership

UC Santa Barbara – MPA Compliance Research October 2020 – May 2021

- Examined and researched regulatory compliance of MPAs in small-scale fisheries, drawing on quantitative data from an international NGO (Rare) database in partnership with a NSF Postdoctoral Fellow

- Continued -

PROJECT AND DATA MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Fisheries Analyst

June - November 2020

The Nature Conservancy - Remote

- Co-developed fisheries models to estimate optimal size limits under a range of scenarios for a fisheries management plan at Ka'ūpūlehu, Hawai'i; produced a 100 page management recommendation report
- Designed a Shiny application to guide decision-making for setting species-specific minimum fish size limits for Ka'ūpūlehu; led facilitation and presentation of the application

Marine Protected Area Program Assistant and Data Analyst

October 2019 - June 2020

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation - Santa Barbara, CA

- Produced communication materials, including written descriptions of MPAs, presentations, social media advertising, and website content, to outreach and educate about the statewide network of MPAs
- Provided data analysis using ArcGIS and R, for ongoing efforts to analyze and validate data from MPA enforcement and domain awareness technologies with NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Project Manager, Master's Group Project: Spatial Analysis to Inform Shark Protection

April 2020 - June 2021

Wildlife Conservation Society (Client) - Remote

- Conducted a spatial prioritization and recommended a network of MPAs to be incorporated into client's larger MPA network design for Mozambique and national policy for shark and ray conservation
- Co-managed a 5-person project team, served as primary client contact, facilitated team and client meetings, and directed project development from initial proposal to final deliverables

Project Development Intern

July - October 2019

NOS Noroeste Sustentable - La Paz, Mexico

- Consulted with members of a fishing cooperative on initial development of an alternative livelihood, ecotourism project to lay the foundation for future business advancement
- Guided project team of 10 to design and improve upon the tourism product, develop an organizational management structure, build capacity, and conduct market research for tourism business

Western Forest Conservation Coordinator

April 2018 - May 2019

American Forest Foundation - Washington, DC

- Served as primary point of contact with 15+ project partners throughout the western U.S. ensuring they had the tools and capacity to effectively outreach to family forest landowners to take conservation action
- Developed an internal data tracking system, processes, and procedures to track and record partners' project metrics as well as managing staff and partners to ensure quality and coherent data maintenance
- Provided research and writing support for a \$9.5 million California Carbon Initiative CALFIRE grant proposal; upon securing funding worked with team of 4 on strategic project design and startup

Global Project Support Associate

March 2017 - March 2018

Management Sciences for Health - Arlington, Virginia

- Supported 9 country portfolios for the USAID-funded SIAPS project, facilitating essential project operations and correspondence between home office and field offices
- Directed 4-person Mozambique staff, both remotely and in-country, to close out the project and office
- Monitored proper completion and submission of project deliverables for 20 global projects

International Program Coordinator

May - September 2016

Foundation for Sustainable Development - Salta, Argentina

- Supervised an international internship program; partnered with 15 local NGOs and facilitated collaboration and communication between interns, community members and NGO officials
- Developed and implemented high-quality, technical trainings and materials for volunteer interns, including strategies for cross-cultural integration and project development and management

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Computer: R/RStudio; Shiny; Git; ArcGIS; Microsoft Office Suite; Social platforms; Website design

Language: Spanish (Full professional proficiency); Portuguese (Conversational); French (Conversational)

Certifications: PADI Advanced Open Water Diver; CPR certified